

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for controlling display of content signals, the method comprises the
steps of:

10 a) receiving a content signal that includes at least one of video, audio, and text
content and at least one associated content control indicator;

15 b) comparing the at least one associated content control indicator with at least one
content control setting;

when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at
least one content control setting:

20 c) scrambling at least a portion of the at least one of video, audio, and text content to
produce scrambled content; and

25 d) providing the scrambled content to a content rendering device.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprises:

scrambling at least a portion of the audio content to produce scrambled audio content,
wherein the content signal includes the audio content; and

providing the scrambled audio content to an audio rendering device.

30 3. The method of claim 2 further comprises attenuating the at least a portion of the
audio content to produce the scrambled audio content.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprises:

scrambling the text content to produce scrambled text content, wherein the content signal

5 includes the text content; and

providing the scrambled closed captioned content to a display.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprises:

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interpreting the at least one associated content control indicator to determine copy restriction status; and

when copy restriction is enabled, preventing copying of the content signal.

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6. The method of claim 1 further comprises:

providing an audio scrambling signal to an audio processing module when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content

20 control setting.

7. A content controller comprises:

a processing module; and

5 memory operably coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory stores operational instructions that cause the processing module to (a) receive a content signal that includes at least one of video, audio, and text content and at least one associated content control indicator; (b) compare the at least one associated content control indicator with at least one content control setting;

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when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content control setting: (c) scramble at least a portion of the at least one of video, audio, and text content to produce scrambled content; and (d) provide the scrambled content to a content rendering device.

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8. The content controller of claim 7, wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

scramble at least a portion of the audio content to produce scrambled audio content,

20 wherein the content signal includes the audio content; and

provide the scrambled audio content to an audio rendering device.

25 9. The content controller of claim 8, wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to attenuate the at least a portion of the audio content to produce the scrambled audio content.

10. The content controller of claim 7, wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

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scramble at least a portion of the text content to produce scrambled text content, wherein the content signal includes the text content; and

provide the scrambled text content to the display.

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11. The content controller of claim 7, wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

interpret the at least one associated content control indicator to determine copy restriction

10 status; and

when copy restriction is enabled, preventing copying of the content signal.

12. The content controller of claim 7, wherein the memory further comprises

15 operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

provide an audio scrambling signal to an audio processing module when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content control setting.

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13. A video device comprises:

a tuner operably coupled to receive a content signal and to produce, therefrom, a digitized content signal;

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a video decoder operably coupled to receive the digitized content signal and to produce, therefrom, decoded video;

a graphics controller operably coupled to receive the decoded video and to provide,

10 therefrom, a video output, wherein the graphics controller includes:

a processing module; and

memory operably coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory stores

15 operational instructions that cause the processing module to (a) monitor at least one of the content signal, the digitized content signal, the decoded video, and the video output, wherein the at least one of the content signal, the digitized content signal, the decoded video, and the video output includes video content and at least one associated content control indicator; (b) compare the at least one associated content control indicator with at least one content control setting;

20 when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content control setting: (c) control scrambling of at least a portion of the digitized content signal or the decoded video to produce scrambled video content; and (d) provide the scrambled video content as the video output.

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14. The video device of claim 13 further comprises an audio decoder operably coupled to the tuner, wherein the audio decoder decodes digital audio of the content signal to produce decoded audio, and wherein the memory further includes operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

control scrambling of at least a portion of the digital audio or the decoded audio to produce scrambled audio content, such that the scrambled audio content is provided to an audio rendering device.

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15. The video device of claim 14, wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to control attenuation of the at least a portion of the digital audio or the decoded audio to produce the scrambled audio content.

10 16. The video device of claim 15 further comprises at least one of: a scramble module and an attenuation module operably coupled to the audio decoder.

17. The video device of claim 13, wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

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control scrambling at least a portion of closed captioned content to produce scrambled closed captioned content, wherein the content signal includes the closed captioned content; and

20 provide the scrambled closed captioned content as part of the video output.

18. The video device of claim 13, wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

25 interpret the at least one associated content control indicator to determine copy restriction status; and

when copy restriction is enabled, preventing copying of the video content.

19. The video device of claim 13, wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

provide an audio scrambling signal to an audio processing module when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content control setting.

5 20. The video device of claim 13 further comprises at least one of: a display and a recorder, wherein the display and the recorder are operably coupled to receive the video output.

10 21. The video device of claim 13 further comprises a scramble module operably coupled to scramble, when enabled, the at least a portion of the digitized content signal or the decoded video.

15 22. The video device of claim 13, wherein the graphics control further comprises a scramble module operably coupled to scramble, when enabled, the at least a portion of the digitized content signal or the decoded video.

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